



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
08/833,657	04/08/97	GRAVES	B CUMN. 193
ARNOLD WHITE & DURKEE P O BOX 4433 HOUSTON TX 77210			LM32/0707
TRAN.F.			EXAMINER
ART UNIT			PAPER NUMBER
2721			9
DATE MAILED:			07/07/98

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/10/98

☐ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12-18, 20, 22, 24-26, 28, 31, 34, 37-44 is/are pending in the application.
Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12-18, 20, 22, 24-26, 28, 31, 34, 37-44 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) 2, 3, 4, 5, 7

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

-SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES-

Art Unit: 2721

1. Applicant's election of species I in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12-15, 18, 20, 22, 24-26, 28, 31, 34, 37-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fish et al [U. S. Patent No. 4,464,787] in view of "TOYOCOM Currency Counter Model NS-100".

As to claims 1-2, 7-10, 12-15, 18, 20, 24-26, 28, 37, 39, 41, 43:

Art Unit: 2721

Fish et al discloses a device which identifies the genuineness and denomination of currency. The device includes: a first characteristic detector for retrieving first characteristic information from a bill and generating an output signal (see Fig. 1, item 14; col. 2, lines 34-68); means for storing reference information for a plurality of denominations of bills (see Fig. 1, item 21; col. 4, lines 42-58); and means for comparing the output signal to the reference information, and indicating that the bill is counterfeit if the output signal does not satisfactorily compare with the reference information ((see Fig. 2, item 20; col. 4, lines 43-58).

Fish et al fails to teach means for selecting a sensitivity setting. The "TOYOCOM Currency Counter, Model NS-100" discloses, on page 10, that it is known to select one of five sensitivity settings for counterfeit detection. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add the sensitivity selecting means as disclosed in "TOYOCOM Currency Counter, Model NS-100" in Fish et al's device for the purpose of improving counterfeit detection.

As to claims 3, 5, 22, 31, 34, 38, 40, 42, 44:

The "TOYOCOM Currency Counter, Model NS-100" discloses, on page 12, that the device includes means for the operator to indicate the denomination of the bill to be authenticated. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add such means in Fish et al's device for the purpose of providing an additional function to the currency validation.

4. Claims 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fish et al [U. S. Patent No. 4,464,787] in view of "TOYOCOM Currency Counter Model NS-100" as

Art Unit: 2721

applied to claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12-15, 18, 20, 22, 24-26, 28, 31, 34, 37-44 above, and further in view of Baron et al [WO 94/16412].

Although Fish et al does not disclose a plurality of detectors of retrieving a plurality of types of characteristic information from a bill, Fish et al suggests at column 15, lines 48-51 that it may be desirable to combine the magnetic scanning with some optical scanning. Baron teaches that it is known to detect counterfeit bills using ultraviolet light and fluorescent light (see the abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the magnetic scanning as described in Fish et al reference and the optical scanning as described in Baron reference for the purpose of enhancing the currency validation.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuoc Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4861. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo H. Boudreau, can be reached on (703) 305-4706. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-9051.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Phuoc Tran
PHUOC TRAN
PATENT EXAMINER